

shall not soon forget the occasion. The opportunity was one of which I covet many. I wish it were possible for me to come more and more into direct touch with the societies. The meeting was held in the Conemaugh church. The meeting is held quarterly and in the different churches represented. The program was wholly in the hands of the young people. Each society contributed at least one number. These were well given. The singing was beyond the ordinary. This is true of the music in all the services. A grand-daughter of Brother Holsinger recited with a great deal of grace and effectiveness. The program was short. The secretary was given ample time. The address was "The Forward Movement and the Young People's Society." The audience was enthusiastic and sympathetic. It was ready for any message that would open to it a more complete and serviceable life in Christ. This the speaker endeavored to do. How well he succeeded, coming days and happenings must show.

I should like to recommend the plan to other communities in which there are several societies. The good that will result from such meetings is incalculable. As churches we must needs often rally around our own denominational standards. We have our own beliefs and likewise our own problems. We must take every precaution that we do not lose our identity and mission. The tendency today is to magnify liberality by underrating doctrine. I am in sympathy with the larger and broader spirit of our times yet I can not think that to be partakers of it we need lose any thing that makes us distinctive as a church. But we must needs hold up our standard and rally to its defense and propagation. We need to think much of the mission that is ours and how best to accomplish it. We can best do this by meeting with others. There is enthusiasm in numbers. Moreover mind shaped with mind and the problems and difficulties of one individual or society may be solved best by another. I hope in the coming year we may hear of other communities doing what the Conemaugh Valley has done. I shall be glad to render assistance to any societies that will plan to hold such rallies. I will speak of my services at Conemaugh and Johnstown next week.

W. D. FURRY.

Christian Life

Show Me Thy Way

Dark the night, the snow is falling;
Thru the storm are voices calling;
Guides mistaken and misleading,
Far from home and help receding.
Vain is all those voices say;
Show me thy way!

Blind am I as those that guide me;
Let me feel thee close beside me!
Come as light into my being!
Unto me be eyes, all-seeing!
Hear my one heart's wish, I pray:
Show me thy way!

Son of man, and Lord immortal,
Opener of the heavenly portal,
In thee all my hope is hidden;
Never yet was soul forbidden
Near thee, always near, to stay;
Show me thy way!

Thou art truth's eternal morning;
Led by thee, all evil scorning,
Thru the paths of pure salvation
I shall find thy habitation,
When I never more shall stray;
Show me thy way!

Thou must lead me and none other,
Truest Lover, Friend, and Brother,
Thou art my soul's shelter, whether
Stars gleam out or tempests gather,
In thy presence night is day;
Show me thy way!

Lucy Larcom.

WHAT CONSTITUTES CHURCH LOYALTY

C. L. PALMER

In nearly every community are three classes. The members of one class do not attend church under any circumstances, nor render any aid toward the support of the gospel. Another class attend irregularly. They are usually present at funerals and special services, but are by no means worthy of the encomium of loyal to the church. There is still another class, representatives of which are found in every locality. They are present at all the services of the church unless providentially prevented. They have the church at heart, and will allow nothing to remain undone that will contribute toward its efficiency. While there may be a diversity of opinion respecting doctrine, we all agree that one cannot be loyal to the church unless he complies with the following conditions:

1. It is impossible to be loyal to the church outside of full communion membership. One may do considerable for the church. He may give liberally of his time and substance to advance the interests of the church. He may attend the services and ever indicate by his life and conversation a loving attachment for the House of God. All these are right and therefore commendable, but one is not doing all that he can do until he makes profession of faith in the Great Head of the church by becoming a full communion member. While we are thankful that there are so many excellent men in our congregations, still we cannot be fully satisfied until they come to the cross and confess their sins and obtain pardon. If such a work of grace could be brought about during the coming winter, it would not only result in their own conversion, but it would be the inauguration of a work of grace of unlimited proportions. We have too many men who are too good not to be all that they are able to become. They need to be born of the spirit in order to reach the full measure of their possibilities.

2 One cannot be loyal to the church unless regular in attendance upon the several means of grace. It is admitted that the exception must be made for those who cannot reach the sanctuary on account of some providential cause. But is it not a duty and

privilege for those who love the Lord to assemble in his courts? If one is fully devoted and finds delight in the place of prayer, no service will be unattended unless unavoidably prevented. Attendance at the services is one of the crucial tests of loyalty. All churches have too many names on the register of those who are present at the hour of worship if convenient. Too many allow every little occurrence to keep them from the sanctuary. No one should think of remaining home on Sunday morning. The evening service ought to be attended if possible, and it is an unspeakable mistake for professed children of God to abstain from the most faithful attendance at the weekly prayer service. Too many desire the honor of the Christian name, but are not willing to make themselves worthy of it.

3. Loyalty implies financial support. The church in its local form is an organization. Certain expenses cannot be avoided, and legitimate expenses ought not be avoided. The financial weakness of the church is due to the fact that members do not give in proportion to their means. Therefore it is often found necessary to hold entertainments in order to raise money with which to meet current expenses. And one of the most painful indications of half heartedness is the complaint of a well-to-do member of his inability to do more. One who is truly loyal will not permit his church to want for his proportion of the subscription. Devotion does not consist in telling others how much we love the House of God, but by a life to loyalty to the visible kingdom which is not of this world. "By their fruits ye shall know them."

4. A devoted member is benovolent. Churches ought and usually do, have a list of objects for voluntary contributions. We cannot be fully loyal to the church unless our devotion includes the full scope of the work of the kingdom. Every minister and congregation hinder the cause of Christ if they do not labor together to cultivate a benevolent spirit. Both pastor and people need the stimulus that comes from interest in missions and all other objects which are worthy of support. And the church which confines its labors to the immediate locality in which it is situated, is not only liable not to grow in grace or members, but is very apt to linger and die. The more a congregation does for the world at large, the more prosperity it will enjoy at home. The purpose of the church is to bring this world to God, and in order to accomplish this great object, it must give her sons and daughters as well as her money. The church and benevolence cannot be divorced because the one is the counterpart of the other and both are a means of grace.

5. A loyal member is loyal to the pastor. It is admitted that pastors are human and therefore subject to the infirmities of the flesh. One is an excellent pastor and an ordinary sermonizer. Another is an ordinary pastor but a fine preacher. But few